

## Nepal needs more than I can give

I have just completed one of two years working in Nepal. In one way or another you would have heard of this small country with its famous Mount Everest, Gurkhas and where a hill is anything under 16 thousand feet. Being blind and yet getting another opportunity to go off east seemed like extreme luck and after bolting the door, we took off east again. Nepal is extremely poor, average wage would be about 170 dollars a year or 35 pence a day, try running your walkman on batteries for that wage and then go out and do the shopping for the family. If I had to do that, I really would start looking like my passport photo after a few months. In Kathmandu we settled into a small N.G.O.(non government organization) called the Self Help Group for Cerebral Palsy. This wonderful small centre runs a Special Education Programme, Physiotherapy Centre and growing Home Visit Programme for those children who are too handicapped to get to the school. Three months initially was spent learning our way around Kathmandu, the culture and of course the language. Our N.G.O. is run by Professor Rajbhandari who left the local university and believing that the Cerebral Palsy children of Nepal get a raw deal, set up the organization which has now been operating for 14 years.

The current C.P.unit is hopelessly inadequate for what is really required. Cold, small rooms, over crowded. Inadequate washing and toileting facilities are situated on the second and third floor. A killer for those who have to carry the children up and down as well as limiting children who could be independent in their own wheel chairs. There is no social security or welfare of any sort and the disabled and their families have to manage as best they can. A centre like ours has to depend totally upon aid from abroad and there are many groups who have been very faithful to these children. Funding is never certain, one year funds are possible while other years agencies have to prioritize, meaning the centre has to search elsewhere to fund its programmes.



There are 32 children at the school and we have registered 2000 C.P.children and know there are a further 60 thousand out there somewhere. Everything the professor has developed so far has depended upon foreign aid. Basically, nothing about the centre is permanent except for the children. Buildings are rented, wages and salaries come from foreign donations along with the books and specialist equipment. If the funds dried up tomorrow, we also vanish.



It was this that caused me to open my mouth one day to professor as the monsoon rains poured down. "What you need is your own building, purpose built, none of this multi-storey stuff where we need a rocket to get the children upstairs, great fun for the kids but hell on our backs. In cold winters, concrete floors for the kids to sit or crawl on all day. Cramped small rooms where there is no room to move freely and of course that thick polluted Kathmandu air. You need your own place, purpose built which belongs to the C.P.children of Nepal and where rent is no longer a problem." He muttered yes but land is so expensive. Since then

the idea has grown and I have set myself the task of getting the funding we need for that land beyond the ringroad of Kathmandu where we can build what the children really need. I have now opened my mouth out there and hope to catch more than just flies.

Returning back to Ireland for a month I opened an account for a year called R. Corazza Re.C.P.Land, A/C No.03648447, Allied Irish Bank, 98 Sandymount Road, Dublin 4. If there is anyone who could or would help me raise funds to acquire land for these children, I would be very grateful. Here we buy land by the Rupni which is 71 feet square and I am hoping to get 6 or more Rupni at 6 thousand pounds each. Once we have the land, certain aid organizations will help us design and build the school and physio unit giving this C.P community a feeling of permanency.

I am not one for taking without offering something in return, so 14 years ago after returning from working in Sarawak, we bought an old cottage which when restoring, was made accessible for the disabled or rather differently abled. Those who are disabled and have helpers/caretakers/friends can use this cottage in Donard, Co. Wicklow and while we are in Nepal, can contact the Irish Wheelchair Association in Dublin. It is usually free only that you have to put a plant or wild seeds into the property. While the Irish Wheelchair Association looks after it for us, there is a charge of 25 pounds for the day/weekend/week which covers some of the costs while we are away. If you feel you would like to avail of the cottage, do contact the Irish Wheelchair Association and book yourself in.

**THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS.**

If you can help, please could you send any donations and your name and address to the Account:-R. Corazza Re.Land, A.C. No 03648447. Allied Irish Bank, 98 Sandymount Road, Dublin 4.

Yours

Bob Corazza

Usually Sandymount, currently Nepal.

# NEPAL CEREBRAL PALSY SCHOOL CHARITY

We are supporting a small non-government organisation ( N.G.O) in Kathmandu, Nepal called **SELF-HELP GROUP FOR CEREBRAL PALSY (S.G.C.P.)**

This N.G.O. was started in 1987 by Professor Rajbhandari to provide education and therapy to children with cerebral palsy through –



SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME



HOME VISIT PROGRAMME



REHABILITATION CLINIC



OUTREACH PROGRAMME

**There are 30 children attending the school and over 2000 children are registered with the centre**

Buildings are rented, and most of the rooms are situated on 2nd and 3rd floors which means that many of the children have to be carried up the stairs.



Rooms are small and cold and there is no space for the children to be independent in their own wheelchairs or walkers. After returning home we fund-raised for 4 years to buy land to develop a centre.



We went to Kathmandu from 1996 – 1998 with Voluntary Service Overseas and worked with S.G.C.P. as Speech and Language Therapist and Occupational Therapist.



This acre of flat land was bought on September 11th 2003 just outside Kathmandu in a green area surrounded by small villages.

**The next stage is to build a centre for these children with Cerebral Palsy consisting of -  
THERAPY AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING & SCHOOL**

**If you could support us contact:-**

**Bob and Frances Corazza, Nepal C.P. School Charity**  
22 Dromard Terrace, Sandymount, Dublin 4, Ireland. Tel: 00 353 1 6687538  
email: francorazza@hotmail.com

or send donations to AIB Bank, 98 Sandymount Road, Dublin 4, Ireland  
C. P. School Account no. 03648603, Sort code 93360