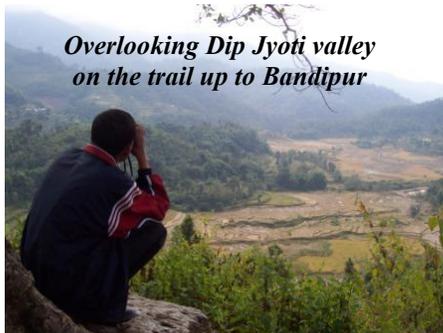


ONE BUCK FOR THE BHATTARAIS

A special fundraising issue of WV's Catholic Worker Newsletter, "The Inner Voice"

"Work as though everything depends on you. Pray as though everything depends on God."
~St. Ignatius Loyola

It's crazy to think I can fundraise \$6,000 to build a house for a family in Nepal. Even if I asked *one* dollar from every person I knew, I'd still come up \$5,730 short. But I'm told anything is possible with God and I've always been a sucker for an optimistic view of the world. So I guess I'll start praying and asking a lot more people I don't know, too!



It has been four years now since I was given the incredible opportunity to go to Nepal to serve. I am still in constant contact with the Bhattarais, the humble and gracious family who took me in as their own and showed me what service is *really* about. Each member continues to be a powerful example to me of how *one person really can make a difference for the good of the whole*. This fundraising for them is a weak attempt at expressing my life lesson learned.



SAHADEV

Sahadev was a 24 year old 6th grade teacher when he was chosen for his excellent English to be our translator in the villages. Besides a 6 day work week at school and being "house-father" 24 / 7 for the village students who board in town, he is still an active community member, in a number of NGO's and Bandipur's Social Development Committee.

I recently got an email from him saying Bandipur had their first "Sanitation Festival." Huh? Well, it is very exciting news for all of you who gave to my "Pennies for Potties" project! Sahadev managed to rally his community to match all the donations I sent, and then some! Now Bandipur is a "Defecation Free Area"; there are finally toilets for each school and every household where there have never been any! And they are now compulsory in all new homes.



AMRITA

Sahadev's sister, Amrita, just a few years his junior, got herself a grant to learn how to sew in Katmandu. Then she came home and taught 14 other women from their home village of Dip Jyoti. Subsequently, they started a co-op to begin raising their own incomes! She has since married and was thrilled to give her parents a granddaughter last year.

BAMADEV & LILA

The kids learned their love and commitment to community from their father and mother. Next year, Bamadev will retire from his position as the principal of the Primary School he started next to their home in Dip Jyoti. After school, he joins Lila who has been in the rice fields since dawn. They work the land for \$7 a day and then Lila goes home to make dinner and do chores in a kitchen as orderly as her fields.



Her simple meals are still enough for Bamadev to then walk up the steep two miles to town. He is a respected elder at 58 and still a much needed pillar of the community for Bandipur and its villages, always initiating new projects for the benefit of all.

Yet, Lila's health is severely waning from her harsh lifestyle and lack of nutrition. Bamadev is still recovering from six weeks of torture when Maoist rebels kidnapped him last year, seeing his leadership ability as a key to their success. It is apparent they need to move from their valley home to Bandipur so Sahadev can care for them while continuing his service.



ONE BUCK FOR THE BHATTARAI'S

If you are interested in giving \$1 or more, please know every one will go directly to Sahadev for the building of a home for him and his parents.

There are no administrative fees or overhead on my end.

He and Bamadev calculated the cost at 400,000 Rupees (\$6,336 US Dollars) for a modest two bedroom home with kitchen/living room and bathroom with the new regulation porcelain squat toilet set in cement.

Nepal is known for its brick industry and building with rock and wood.

The family has already scavenged a number of bricks but more will need to be purchased.

During this cold season, father and son are collecting other available natural materials. The community will help with the building of the house, but some paid labor will be needed, as well as roofing material and pipes and equipment for gravity fed water and septic systems.

Thank you in advance for any amount you can give.

Helping the Bhattari's obviously helps the entire community.

(Heck! It was worth a try to ask!)

Please send \$1 in a secured envelope OR check or money order payable to:

The Catholic Worker Farm
c/o Jeannie Kirkhope
885 Orchard Run Rd.
Spencer, WV 25276
