NEPAL: NEW SCHOOL WILL OFFER A HOLISTIC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Construction of new school gives vulnerable children and youth an opportunity to improve their lives

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CONTEXT: Nepal, a small country of 29 million people situated on top of the world, is wedged between the megacountries of China and India. Although Hindus make up more than 81 percent of the population, there are deep caste divides within the population. Lower castes and other marginalized groups like Christians have less access to basic services and education, and fewer opportunities for social advancement.

NEED: Nepal desperately needs to improve the socio-economic welfare of its people, starting with the young generation that needs a quality education based on Christian values and the development of skills that will make them self-supporting and help build a productive community. However, Christians continue to experience persecution. Landlords don’t want to lease land and buildings for Christian schools or churches. The Anglican Church of Nepal needs a permanent location to build a school that will become a landmark for a quality Christian education that transforms lives.

SOLUTION: As part of its mission to grow the church and effectively meet the educational needs of young Nepalese, the Anglican Church of Nepal will use funding from the Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF) to purchase land for the construction of a three-story school building for Joy Land School that will be used as a kindergarten and primary school for 120 students in Pokhara in Central Nepal. Currently operating in a rented building in Damside, Pokhara, this school will provide a quality education with a blend of local and international curriculum using a new and effective teaching method for kindergarten to 8th grade. It will also enable the children to grow and develop their knowledge and talents regardless of race, caste, or religion.

LIFE IMPACT

Benefits 420 people, some in multiple ways:

- 120 students will be exposed to Christian education.
- 300 parents and other community members will benefit from having their children attend school in an enlarged Christian facility, where they can also attend community gatherings and church services.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“Within these two years, I lost my husband and father-in-law. I have two kids and had been working as a daily wage worker to keep my kids alive. But the nationwide lockdown hit us so badly. ... I have spent many nights hungry to keep my children fed. I found no option except to pray for God’s miraculous provision. That same weekend, pastor called and asked me to collect one sack of rice and a basic food hamper. I couldn’t stop the tears from flowing down and thank God for his miracle. Personally, I want to thank the Anglican Church for your big heart and helping hand.”

– Ful Maya B.K., Damside, Pokhara, Nepal

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Anglican Relief and Development Fund®

PROJECT PROFILE

Lead Ministry
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF NEPAL

| BENEFICIARIES | 420 |
| SECTOR        | Education |
| AMOUNT REQUESTED | $265,000 |
| TOTAL COST PER BENEFICIARY | $1,502 |
| ARDF COST PER BENEFICIARY | $620 |

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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THE GRID CERTIFIED

SECTOR

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$265,000

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420

Education

The Anglican Relief and Development Fund®
Project Design:
The changing and unpredictable political and religious climate in Nepal has made it almost impossible for Christian institutions, especially schools and churches, to rent space from Hindu landlords. This has created an urgent need to purchase land and build schools. The Anglican Church has already identified two potential properties to consider. Once the property is identified, lawyers for both the Anglican Church of Nepal and the seller will complete the transaction.

Joy Land School, Pokhara, is a mission school committed to providing a much-needed holistic, child-inclusive curriculum that is based on Christian values. The school is registered in Nepal and has a license. It is currently operating out of leased premises in the city of Pokhara. This project marks the first phase of construction of Joy Land School in Pokhara. A total of $265,000 in funding from ARDF will be used to purchase 3,420 square feet of land. The second phase of the project, funded by the Anglican Diocese of Singapore, will include construction of a three-story building, furnishings, equipment, and the cost of relocating the current school. A competitive bidding process will be used to select a qualified construction contractor. The diocese will hire an architect to design the building and submit it to local authorities for approval. The building will accommodate 120 kindergarten and primary school students. Once complete, the facility will be used for community members to attend church services and other events.

The purchase of the land, construction of the buildings, and the opening of the new school will take two years, depending on the political and social climate in Nepal. Once the construction is completed, a thriving educational institution, synonymous with high standard and quality education will help nurture Nepal’s children. It will help develop young people’s character and Christian values, as well as serve as a landmark in the Nepalese education landscape.

Measuring impact: Analysis of the project will be carried out to identify the gaps and indicators to measure the results of the project. Church leaders will regularly monitor progress, submitting quarterly reports to the project committee. Diocesan staff overseeing this project will compile quarterly progress and expense reports. Anglican Church of Nepal leadership will meet quarterly to evaluate the project’s impact. The implementation of the project will be monitored via quarterly reports, statement of accounts, and regular updates.

Implementer Financials:
This project adheres to some or all of this sector’s established best practices:

**Income**
- Diocese of Singapore: $233,241 (94%) $235,754 (93%)
- Tithe: $7,006 (3%) $11,277 (4%)
- Mission partners/local church: $6,158 (2%) $5,848 (2%)
- Offering/donations: $3,541 (1%) $1,659 (1%)

**Total**:
- $250,136 (100%)
- $256,735 (100%)

**Expenses**
- Personnel (salaries and benefits): $156,440 (80%)
- Ministry programs: $21,475 (9%)
- Anglican Training Center: $12,248 (5%)
- Anglican Regional Office (Central & East): $6,423 (3%)
- Anglican Regional Office (West): $5,900 (3%)

**Total**:
- $242,546 (100%)
- $251,354 (100%)

**Surplus (Deficit)**
- $7,592 (3%)
- $7,381 (3%)

**Notes**:
- Income and expenditures reported in U.S. dollars.
- Income: The Deanery of Nepal presented unaudited detailed finance reports indicating income and expenditures for 2018 and 2019. These reports provide details on items included in each income and expense category. The Deanery’s support from the Diocese of Singapore represents its main source of revenue to support operations. A negligible increase in the support is noted in 2019. Titles, donations from local churches, and offerings are the Deanery’s other sources of income. These represent 6% of total income in 2018 and 7% in 2019. No other sources of income were reported. A surplus of 3% of revenue is reported in 2018 and 2019.

**Risk Analysis**

**Concept: 1**
Education is a key tool to address inequality in a country like Nepal. The goal is to establish a mission school with high-quality educational standards based on Christian values. The school will serve as a training ground for future mission schools.

**Program Design & Experience: 2**
Joy Land School was initiated by the Deanery of Nepal, Diocese of Singapore, and the Anglican Church of Nepal to bring high-quality Christian education to those who can’t afford one. Response to the program in the existing school has been positive.

**Leadership: 1**
Leadership of the Anglican Church of Nepal is organized by zones for better accountability. The Rev. Canon Steven Asrivatham works closely with leadership through regular meetings. Leadership has a depth of experience in organizing and managing a variety of complex projects, including this one.

**Financial Control: 3**
The Anglican Church of Nepal has stable management, secure financial transfer methods, and externally audited financial statements. It lacks an independent board because all members are Anglicans. It also lacks a list of the diocese’s valuable fixed assets, furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

**Sustainability: 2**
Maintenance, upgrades, and training costs will be paid through school fees, donations, and funds raised by the Anglican Church of Nepal, the Deanery of Nepal, and Diocese of Singapore. The long-term plan is that the school will be self-sustaining. Any profits will support local ministries.

**External: 3**
Several external factors could hinder project implementation, including Nepal’s political and cultural influence by India and China.
WHAT IT’S LIKE NOW

“Education is meant to be inclusive and equitable but in Nepal only a small percentage can enjoy the benefits of a good education. According to UNICEF: ‘Attendence in early childhood education is still very low at 51%. There is inequity in the education sector as only 12% of children from the lowest wealth quintile are attending school, attending early childhood education is synonymous with high standard and quality education will help nurture Nepal’s educational landscape.’”

— www.unicef.org/nepal/education

Over the last 20 years, Nepal has made significant progress in education. The net enrollment rate in primary schools has risen to 97 percent. However, the country still has many challenges to tackle. Issues that persist in education include poor quality and inequity in access, geographical remoteness, gender, and socioeconomic and ethnic differences. Key barriers to enrollment and attendance include poverty, social exclusion, disability, migration, child labor, social norms, and gender bias. ”

— Education: We work to ensure all children in Nepal have access to inclusive and equitable quality education, www.unicef.org/nepal/education

PROJECT DESIGN

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EXTERNAL: 3

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LEADERSHIP PROFILES
The Rev. Canon Steven Asirvatham is the dean, Deanery of Nepal, Diocese of Singapore. He oversees the project. His background includes experience as chairman, Christ Church Kindergarten, Singapore.

REFERENCES
“The leadership of Anglican Church Nepal has shown great passion to reach out to the community despite setbacks and persecutions. Within the 21 years of their existence, they have established about 92 Anglican churches with more than 150 indigenous clergy and staff. The leadership, together with their staff and members, have a grit and tenacity to see to the completion of any project undertaken. ... I have been involved with the Anglican Church Nepal for many years through regular yearly mission trips and long-term involvement in training, outreach, youth, and children’s programs. The commitment of the leaders and their passion to see the children do well in school, as well as concern for their overall welfare, was good to note.”

– Vasanthi Sandrabose, a missionary in Pokhara

“My wife and I were the pioneers of Joy Land Kindergarten. We were sent by the Diocese of Singapore under the Deanery of Nepal to Nepal to set up Joy Land Kindergarten in 2018. What I like about Joy Land Kindergarten is the quality of education it brings to the locals with a unique blend of local and international curriculum. Anglican Church Nepal leaders are very committed and hands-on. The senior clergy lead by example. When doing ministry in the villages, they do not just assign those under them to go, but they get their hands dirty by leading their juniors to remote places. And they have a heart to see their nation saved. Anglican Church of Nepal is well-received due to the groundwork the pastors are doing.”

– Alvin Flang, a missionary from Singapore to Nepal

BEST PRACTICES
Based on The GRID’s research, this project adheres to the following best practices:

• Engages community members in familiar, community settings, staffed by local community members and accessible to families
• Works with structured, established, community-based organizations that can establish a holistic skills training program
• Promotes participation, local leadership, vision, entrepreneurship, consultation, and capacity, in an effort to build societies in which social transformation is self-sustaining

RESEARCHER’S STATEMENT
Although Christianity has quietly grown in Nepal over the years, the influence of India and China is threatening to close the door to Christian ministry work. One of the best and safest way to overcome the challenges is through construction of schools like Joy Land that offers a platform for evangelism and discipleship. Investing in Christian schools will allow the Anglican Church of Nepal to share the gospel in a non-threatening way.

Joy Land School will not only plant the seed of the gospel, but also help bring up children in a Christian community.

IMPLEMENTER’S INSPIRATION
“Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

– Psalm 82:3-4 (ESV)

HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT
PROJECT RECAP
ID - ARDF-0921- Nepal
Timeline - 24 months
Requested - $265,000
Modified - 101921

For information about the Fund or Projects, write to:
800 Maplewood Ave.
Ambridge, PA 15003-2316
(724) 251-6045
www.ARDF.org

The Anglican Relief and Development Fund®

THE GRID
PARTNERS FOR IMPACT WORLDWIDE

18 DOE LANE • MALVERN, PA 19355 U.S.A.
484-995-7841
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