

October 2013

Dear Friends,

With the Ganges River finally returning to her banks, the school was finally able to re-open on September 3rd. We had been in session for six days in August. With just three weeks left before first-term exams, we dove right into serious study. It was a mad rush. Teachers prepared test papers which were sent to the typist, then edited, photocopied, and organized. Students crammed.



In the midst of instruction and review, we assessed community needs in light of the flood. Special contributions had been given for flood relief; how best to spend the money? In the end, we were able to purchase a water filter and mosquito net for each family served by the school. now and for many months to come. We also sponsored a free community medical camp, open for a week of afternoons. Doctors volunteered time to diagnose patients. Many received free medicines. Over 130 people were treated. Finally, we were able to provide financial assistance to two of our teachers whose homes had suffered significant flood damage. Thank you so much to those of you who made this meaningful community outreach possible!



We hope that these will prevent sickness



*Filters and mosquito nets such as these were distributed to 100 families.*

Exams are now over; results have been distributed. After a break for Dasshera, a nine-day Hindu festival, we have re-opened for our second term. Problems related to the flood linger. With continued unseasonal rains, waterlogged soil along the river's edge continues to slide into the river. We have lost several feet of land from the rear of our playground. The entire line of trees along the back edge is gone. The playground is still off-limits to the children. Also lost were portions of the road that most of our students take to school. With their main route now impassable, our students' trip to and from school has now doubled in length. We have arranged for school rickshaws to transport the youngest ones.

In more encouraging news, we were able to start a weekly meeting for our teenage boys. These meetings will allow the boys to practice their English and to discuss topics of interest to them such as love and dating, friendships with boys who are not making right decisions, problems of their community, etc. We are hoping that these meetings will deepen our relationships with these boys, allowing us to guide them in right choices in the future.

Hopefully, our second term will be less eventful. We hope that the damaged road will be repaired and that our playground will again become usable. We hope that fevers will be minimal.

Through life's ups and downs, we continue to stand as a light in the community, seeking to raise up children with the skills, resilience, and confidence, to weather the storms of life. We would welcome any financial contributions to help us meet our goals!

With best wishes,

Connie