

# Katrina and Martin Butterworth

Prayer Letter, January 2014

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Are you the kind of person who likes life to be planned and organised with a clear direction, or are you more of a “let’s go with the flow and see what happens” persuasion? Martin and I are very much the former, but the majority of Nepalis seem to be the latter, which tends to lead to a lot of last minute panicking when something actually has to work properly.

In my, Katrina’s, team at Patan Academy of Health Sciences we are still in the rolling out phase of the medical course. With each advancing month, there are new placements to organise and new faculty to train. This year, the first batch of students have embarked on what we call the “minor rotations”, two week placements in things like psychiatry, dentistry, ophthalmology and dermatology. Although we have known about this for at least 3 years, and I have been working with the new faculty for over a year to try and get them ready, we were still down-to-the wire when it came to having everything in place for the student’s first day.

The faculty were still writing up learning materials the day before and sending them to me for editing. We then realised that we didn’t have enough chairs for students to sit on in the rooms we had set aside for teaching, and while we had assumed that every department had a laptop or computer to use – this was apparently not the case. In true Nepali fashion though, it all worked out in the end.

The next major event in the PAHS academic calendar is June 2014, when the students begin their six month placements in rural district hospitals. I am part of the team organising this, but it has been far from easy. We do now have agreements with two hospitals and we have two GPs employed specifically to support these hospitals and train our students. This is a major step forward. The only problem is that we need two more hospitals in place before June! There are so many “urgent” issues to deal with that this project keeps being side-lined until it becomes the

next crisis.

The 6 month rural placement is one of the key parts of our training programme. This is where our students will hopefully learn what it means to be a rural doctor and be inspired to become one themselves. The whole purpose of PAHS is to develop doctors who are able and willing to serve the underprivileged in remote rural areas.

The two rural GPs are both my ex-students, Kshitiz and Yogendra. Hopefully they will be excellent role models and good teachers. They move to the rural hospitals at the end of this month, to start providing clinical services and to prepare the sites to receive our students. They are both quite junior, so it is a big task for them.

The other deadline I am working to this year is Baisek 1st. In English months, this is around mid-April but is the start of the Nepali year. This is the start date for a national programme in Continuing Professional Development for all doctors who want to stay registered with the Nepal Medical Council (NMC). I have been part of the working committee for this since November 2012, but it really does look like it is coming together now. The start date was announced this week to all the major stakeholders (universities, medical colleges etc) as well as the press, so let’s hope we do better than the Nepal government deadlines, which seem to be extended ad infinitum.

In the midst of this bubbling cauldron of activity, planning and organising, it is good to be reminded of the importance of living in the here and now with the people we interact with on a daily basis, being “present” in every sense. This is something that Nepalis really excel at, and that I (Katrina) need constant reminding of. Martin is very good at this, something for which he is very much valued for at our church. He does help them with the planning and activities of the charity our church runs, but what they value the most is his faithful “presence”.

One final set of dates to remember! In June I (Katrina) am returning to the UK for Home Assignment and will be available to come and talk to you. I arrive in the UK on June 2nd, so you will be able to book dates from June 6th to 30th. Please contact BMS to organize the bookings. Martin and the girls will be joining me for some family holiday in July. Ruth has AS levels this summer and Esther has one IGCSE. We all return to Nepal together at the end of July.

**Things to give thanks for:**

- Good working relationships for Katrina at PAHS and in the Nepal Medical Council
- Friendships for Martin within church

**Things to pray for:**

- Kshitiz and Yogendra as they move to their rural hospital sites and start to develop the relationships they need to serve the local community well, and get ready for the students
- The rural hospitals we partner with, that we will find two more, and that all four sites will find having students a positive experience
- Ruth and Esther as they study for their exams
- Katrina as she prepares for home assignment at the same time as keeping track of everything going on at work.

Yours in Christ

***Katrina and Martin***

Katrina will be on home assignment in the UK and available to request as a BMS Speaker from 6 June to 1 July. Churches wishing to request Katrina as a BMS Speaker should use the online speaker request form at [bmsworldmission.org/speakers](http://bmsworldmission.org/speakers) or call the Church Relations Team on 01235 517600. Please submit your request by 24 February.



If you would like to support Katrina and Martin by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/partners](http://bmsworldmission.org/partners) or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.

