continued from front

helped us to raise approximately £3,000 (approximately $4,250 USD), which is more than we could have asked or imagined. I had the complete blessing of helping use some of the money that people gave us to help meet needs in Kathmandu. So many people are still in temporary accommodation since the earthquake eight months ago. They live in small corrugated tin huts, and the temperatures are very low at night in winter. We bought blankets and had the blessing of distributing them to these people. We discovered later on that night that 26 people died in another area due to the cold. I didn't realize how desperately they needed these blankets until I heard that news.

We were also able to buy and distribute school jumpers and other uniform to kids in the school that needed them. We bought badly needed classroom equipment and a freezer for the school. It was great to be able to let people know how their money had been used. True to his word, where Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven," I heard God's name being praised simply by stepping out in faith to do these good deeds that he had orchestrated in advance. All of this inspired, encouraged and built our faith. Raising money raised awareness of our trip, and opened so many doors to us sharing our faith. It inspired me to see what an impact deciding to love and help the poor had.

As a family, we helped teach classes in the school while the teachers received training from one of our volunteers. I had a lot of concerns about what I would be able to give, and how I could help - and I knew that if I was feeling this way that my children would be feeling it more. Again, through stepping out in faith God used us. My girls loved teaching the nursery children who had an insatiable appetite for high fives and hugs. They also helped me to teach the tin whistle, to make bracelets out of loom bands, and play lots of games. All of these things were out of our comfort zone, but the whole experience helped us to grow in our confidence in God to step out in faith, and allow God to worry about the details. They were victories for our kids and us.

My husband helped to build an extra room in the school and in the afternoons taught 14-year-olds to build web sites. The power cuts which are just part of daily life in Kathmandu sometimes caused obstacles which they managed to find ways around. These things also helped us to appreciate the things that we take for granted in the UK.

Our Christmas day was so special, as we helped organize a party for the children from the school. It really struck my 10-year-old son that the children were so grateful and excited for the small presents that we gave each of them. Also, my children were impacted at how happy the school kids were with a lot less and by the warmth and welcome that the children gave them every day. It definitely made me think that it is the poor that are the blessed ones rather than us, with all our material possessions, which I think a lot of the time only make us more dissatisfied and greedy. In Luke it talks about how God fills the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty. Seeing the joy of these people helped me understand this.

Editor's note: Please visit www.DisciplesToday.net for the entire story, this version was edited for space.

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- ***Space Coast Church Lifts Off***
  Tom Kuhn, Brevard County, FL — Monday, 21 March 2016
  Space Coast Church of Christ inaugural service 2A few weeks ago, we reported to Disciples Today that the Space Coast Church was planning their inaugural service on February 28. We are happy to add that...

- ***Great News from China!***
  Hong Kong Church of Christ — Friday, 11 March 2016
  About 100 song leaders came together to the Greater China Song Leaders' Training Workshop held in Hualien, Taiwan at the end of October 2015. In this three-day training camp, the song leaders learned...

- ***Let's Be Nice...To Ourselves!***
  Lori Ziegler, Northern Virginia, USA — Monday, 21 March 2016
  Before we get started on this journey, can I tell you something that has hit me hard? We need to be more kind to ourselves. We need to say nice things to ourselves when we're wrestling with concerns and...

- ***Designed with Love and Purpose***
  Written by Jeanie Shaw, Boston, MA — Tuesday, 08 March 2016
  Today, International Women's Day is a day women are celebrated all over the world. God celebrates us each day, but on this day "set aside" particularly for women, we want to remind each of you how deeply you are loved by God. The following is an excerpt...

• UPCOMING EVENTS

Johannesburg Church 30th Anniversary
Johannesburg, South Africa
April 29-May 1, 2016

2016 Asian Discipleship Summit
Bali, Indonesia
June 16-19, 2016

2016 North American Discipleship Summit
St. Louis, Missouri, USA
July 7-10, 2016

2016 European Discipleship Summit
Kiev, Ukraine
August 2016

2016 West and Central African Discipleship Summit
Accra, Ghana
August 5-7, 2016

2016 Australian Discipleship Summit
Sydney, Australia
September 23-25, 2016

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More Valuable than Anything Money Could Buy

Written by HOPE worldwide



Jane Doyle, from Belfast, Northern Ireland, writes about her family's trip to Nepal with the Kathmandu 2015 Christmas HOPE Youth Corps.

This is the story of my family trip with HOPE *worldwide* to Kathmandu, Nepal at Christmas 2015. Our family consists of my husband Daniel, our two girls Hannah (15) and Sian (13), and our son Rory (10).

Even though we had wanted to go on one of these HOPE *worldwide* trips for a few years, when God opened the door for our family to serve in Kathmandu, the reality of it brought up fears in me, and challenges that only faith in God could overcome.

First of all, I am ashamed to say that I was tempted to think about what else we could spend the money on, if we did not go on the trip. I could feel a pull on my heart to want to use the money to serve our own needs rather than on traveling to help the poor. I knew that this would be empty and unsatisfying. It was really a decision for us to trust God, when he said that "whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Personally, I didn't go this trip because I loved the poor, but because I wanted to learn to have a compassionate heart like Jesus towards those in need, and it was important for me and my husband to help our children with this also. To me this was more valuable than anything money could buy.

A large challenge for us was that our two daughters were incredibly unhappy about missing Christmas at home, and didn't want to go. It was a real challenge for us to trust God, and have the faith to make this decision for them, not knowing how they would respond to the trip. As a mum, I also had fears that the kids could get sick going to a developing country.

A month before we went to Kathmandu we decided as a family to do a 10-mile sponsored swim to raise money to help support HOPE *worldwide's* work in Kathmandu. This was so encouraging to see how generous people were, and see people's hearts to want to support the work in Nepal. God

continued on back