



Altruistic Odyssey

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2021

Nason Village

**AO is on a roll!
Creating upward movement!**



Altruistic Odyssey

We made excellent progresses in the month of October and so far this November. The team here in the US was able to fundraise what was needed to execute our 3rd CLEC (Computer Learning Environment Center). Our team in Nepal was able to visit the Nason Rural Municipality and Thonche High School to complete a feasibility study of that same CLEC for delivery this December. They came back with a **“good to go”** !



Ed and Mr Nima Chirring Ghale, new President of Ghylsumdo Sewa Sanashta, presenting check for the project in Nason Rural Municipality



Ed with Dr. Dhyagalpo Punel & Rapke Lama

Our team of writers in Nepal produced lots of stories for our social media during this precious family time of Dashain and Tihar. I was fortunate to be invited to the **Tihar evening** organized by our partner association, the **Ghylsumdo Sewa Sanstha**, and enjoyed this evening of Nepali food, and cultural programs, while getting my own tikka and Nepali hat! We are preparing our trip to **Baltimore** to engage the Nepali community there on **November 18!**

Yay! We are on a roll, creating a difference for education in rural areas of Nepal !
Thanks to support us, to volunteer with us, to bring us projects for the future, as our partnerships with Nepali associations will expand so we can achieve our 100 CLEC goal!

ED ANTOINE AND AO TEAMS

AO ON ROLL

Shree Prakash Jyoti
Higher Secondary School



From right, Jhabindra K. Subedi (AO Nepal Chairman) and Prakash Shrestha (AO Nepal Coordinator).

On October 28th, **Jhabindra Kumar Subedi** and **Prakash Shrestha** from our Nepal Team set out on a reconnaissance mission to rural Nason. As you may have known, Nason resides at an altitude of 6,500 feet, close to Mount Manaslu (26,804 feet) in the Himalayan region of Nepal, and is the site for our upcoming Computer Learning Environment Center project.

What you may not have known, however, is just how incredibly treacherous the roads leading up to the site are.

Paved roads are a luxury in these parts and a scarce resource as the hills are too steep to run bulldozers on. The state of such roads has been further worsened by the freak floods of the monsoon season. The only solution, then, is to muster one's courage, hop on a 4x4, and literally put one's life into the driver's hand. The only sense of comfort is the croons of old-school Bollywood blaring through the car speakers.

And one must wonder, how do the children get to school under such circumstances? The sad answer is that they often don't. They either miss out on their education completely, or subject themselves to dangerous hour-long hikes through the hillsides with the imminent worry of a landslide.

Fortunately, Jhabindra and Prakash made it to Nason in one piece and got in touch with Shree Prakash Jyoti Highschool. This will be the school where the CLEC will be set up and function to effectively hone the pedagogy of the community's teachers. They also had conversations with the stakeholders of the school and learned that they are as ecstatic as we are to make full use of the CLEC.

Coming back to the children, the school itself is also constructing hostels for their students so that they do not have to make long trips. Such an initiative makes us proud to be building our project next to theirs!

The duo returned safe and sound on October 30th, and we must thank you for all the wonderful support to get the project started. We would appreciate your continued support and donations to complete the project by the end of this year!



Jhabindra welcomed by the principal of the school

CELEBRATION OF DASHAIN FESTIVAL 2078 B.S.

by Ishor Nachhiring (AO member)



Different culture different color of Tika

For me Dashain celebration is really an extra in comparison to previous years. I went back to my homeland from Kathmandu and met all of my relatives. Meeting them and sharing time with them was so emotional. I took tika and lots of blessings from my grandfather who is 76 years old onwards. The only thing for me that was very interesting this year was that I put tika to my sisters, her husband and son. Wow that becomes a really good change for me to know more about our culture. Taking and giving blessings has a message of caring and relationship tied to each other. Meeting with other friends, relatives and spending time with them was so unique for me. The environment itself seemed that the festival was very beautiful. My experience with this festival has huge this year. Knowing about our own culture is so nice because I realized that every culture is wonderful in its own way.



CELEBRATION OF TIHAR FESTIVAL 2078 B.S.

Tihar is the second largest festival of Nepalese people. It is a five day festival of worship for different creatures especially Laxmi the goddess of wealth. It is also called Bhai Puja or Deepawali. During this festival, people usually decorate their homes by different colours of lights DIYAS, they gamble together and sing, dance which is called deusi vailo. They entertain a lot in this festival. The sisters usually honour and put tika to their brothers with different colours in this festival praying that for their progress, prosperity and longevity in coming days where in Dashain the brothers put tika to them. In return the brothers gift something to their sisters that is really a beautiful.

Three generations of Bhai Tika

1 + 1 = 3

During the month of October we conducted a fundraising campaign for our most urgent project. The project itself is situated in the rural Himalayan community of Nason in the Manang district of Nepal. This involves the installation of our Computer Learning Environment Center (CLEC), which will support improving and technologically advancing the pedagogy of the local teachers there.

In addition to this, we intend the CLEC to assist in rebuilding a sense of community in the remote municipality. As you may have known, much of Nepal suffered freak floods that have swept away houses and lives. We are working to make this an environment for not only learning, but also a hub of tranquility and joy.

With that, we are ecstatic to report that we have been able to raise \$2,600, with 35 altruists backing us! These will now be effectively matched by our board member, Craig Frischling, which will shoot us over the campaign's goal of \$4000. For this, we can't thank you all enough.

This is not to say that our work is done. We still need more funds to make this project a reality and reach its full potential. As work for us continues, we will keep you posted on the new developments of our odyssey toward a better Nepal.