

# Joy Ransom

## Remote Rukum

May 2023

[www.bmsworldmission.org/jransom](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/jransom)



Dear friends,

Although my time in Nepal is rapidly coming to a close, I have some new and exciting things to tell you.

In my last letter, I mentioned a planned trip to our Rukum project. Thank you for your prayers for safe travelling. Our journey from Kathmandu was pretty easy but getting to our partner schools each day presented challenges and many 'eyes closed to pray' moments. Some of the time we had to push and almost carry our 3 wheeled vehicle when the dusty, twisty and steep road (perhaps path is a better word!) became impassable. But we made it safely and I had the opportunity to visit all eight schools.

It was good to see our field staff worker, Barsha, using her new scooter to get to schools. Without it she would not be able to visit as often as she does. I loved seeing how warmly she was greeted by school principals, teachers and students in each school. One senior teacher commented, 'We know Barsha well, she is one of us.' What great relationships she has made in the short time she has been there.

Another highlight of the trip was to see two schools receive an IT lab of 20 computers, set up by EQUIP and Edutech, our partner organisation and partly funded by BMS. There was great excitement in each school as the teachers and students saw the computers being carried in and set up in one of their classrooms. They talked of the opportunities they would have to learn to type and google and study new things which they hoped would help them get a better job when they left school. Of course, our other partner schools would like an IT lab too but diplomatically, we suggested that we would see how well these first ones were used before committing to provide others.



The pre-school training turned out to be quite different, but much better, than I expected. The students were in the class with the teachers and I was able to give a hands-on demonstration of what active learning in pre-school could look like. Using locally available resources such as leaves, sticks, stones and scraps of material from the tailors, we had lots of fun. It has been a while since I taught such young children and so it was an exhausting and challenging experience. Some of the comments from the teachers though were encouraging. 'The students never concentrate so well when I teach them' and 'I know my students can count, but now I see how these games help them to understand what number 4 actually means' and 'The story book helped them to talk about their own life.'



Alongside these exciting developments there have been some frustrations recently too. The publishers have failed to print the phonics books as promised and our teachers in Lamjung urgently need them as the new academic session gets under way. Some of the teachers and principals who have worked with us over many years have suddenly left or been moved to another school, and we have to start to build new relationships and trust in those schools again. The one road between here and the rest of Nepal is now only passable with great care as the landslide continues to move. The farewells have begun and I am thinking about how to empty my house. I am already being inundated with requests for my table, or jumper, or bed! Transition is never easy, and I would really value your prayers as I move back to the UK and for EQUIP as we finish the work in Lamjung and extend our work in other areas.

Being in such a remote place, reminded me again of things we take for granted even here in Besisahar, such as the availability of toilet paper and fresh fruit and vegetables in the bazaar. Rukum is a much poorer area of Nepal, with few opportunities for employment, a huge alcohol and drug problem and engrained caste discrimination and conflict. So, it is really exciting that EQUIP has been asked to extend our work in that area in conjunction with another organisation. From our current eight schools, we will soon have 20, and from one field staff worker based in the project, we hope to have three. Our current teacher training programmes are being refined into longer packages so they can be delivered more widely. I am busily writing the early years training with photos and clear descriptions so that it can be easily delivered by my colleagues in the future. With funding secured for 5 years this is a great opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of children and families in Rukum.



Please continue to pray for....

safety and encouragement for the team and teachers working in the remote schools of Rukum

the IT labs to be used by the students and teachers to gain the skills and knowledge they need

our plans to extend the programme in Rukum and for the right people to be appointed to work in such a difficult place

my last weeks in Besisahar to be fun and fruitful and that all would be completed well and on time.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in partner churches in the Autumn. If you would still like to arrange a church visit, please contact BMS.

Every blessing

Joy

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



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