



Beyond Tears Worldwide is a 501(c)3 non-profit humanitarian aid and development organization incorporated in December of 2002. BTW works together with various national and international agencies and private individuals to reach out to indigenous people in remote areas worldwide to provide humanitarian aid and development programs selflessly. We believe that we can show God's love by helping those who are oppressed, economically distressed, or impacted by war and refugee status.

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## Message from the President of BTW Report from "Lingshed Welcome Project 2023"

Greetings to you all and many thanks for your prayers for this team.

Lingshed/Leh Hostel Projects 2023. Our team of 10: Quote "A puzzle of 10 pieces...." (Nazuna) being knit together....Kevin, Keith, Heather, Bob, Joe, Chuck, Joey, Mary, Nazuna and Ajay. There were several obvious situations that we became aware of during this project.

First, there were spiritual forces trying to prevent us from getting to Linkshed and Leh—sickness, monsoon rains, flooded high-ways and back streets, roads cutoff and unrepairable for months, flight cancelations, projected work cancelation, flight delays, lost phones, accidents in transit and resistance to the Gospel. All these things and more were thrown against us by the enemy, but we were determined to overcome. Prayers were requested of our supporters in the USA, Canada, England, The Netherlands and Switzerland, and we persevered. It was obvious to us that we were not welcomed by Satan into the Himalayas this year, although the title of the 2023 project was dubbed "Lingshed Welcome Project 2023." Everything was thrown at us, and we saw victory after victory.

Next, stress...The transformation from the old man to the new man is never easy. Under the stress and conflicts faced in a spiritual onslaught, Satan would have us become divided. There is no "I" in TEAM, but the "I" in us would certainly like to rear its ugly head when the pressure is on. God is at work in us...I believe members would agree that God was working in us to cause us to understand what it means to die to self and serve God. The calling is never without cost. The famous comment by John the Baptist beame real to us..."He must increase, but I must decrease." In order for the work to be done, we had to realize that we had to let Christ take control of our feelings, thoughts, our desires and mannerisms and ways of doing things. We had to let things go...our desires had to become His desires. It was not about us. It was about Him.

We began to take the glib idea we had about our former mentor and friend, Lou Felo's motto of BFA (Be Flexible Always) and really deeply grasp the fact that our response to situations and events required our availability and flexibility. The cultural situation was way beyond our comfort zone. The people did not think in the same way. Life unfolded in a completely different pattern. The agenda in the hearts of the people was not the same agenda we had...we had to flex, adapt and adjust to the situation. It was not comfortable nor easy. Sometimes tempers flared. God healed our relationships as He worked in us to surrender to Him. We needed a special period of transformation, and it took an outlandish mission project to India and Ladakh to get our attention. It was often tense.

Satan fell from glory as we surrendered to God. God was glorified as the puzzle was pieced together in the timing of God's work in our lives. We became a Team for God. All of us using our talents gifts, insights and skills in the work of the ministry.

### BTW BOARD MEMBERS

Jay Comfort, President Vice President, to be appointed Dona Clair Kelly, Secretary Bob Miles, Treasurer  
Mary Beerley, Member at Large Laura and Mike Grieco, Joint Member at Large Dave Kawata, Member at Large

Finally, not everyone welcomed us. Certainly Satan threw everything he could at us. The monsoon rains were the worst in 45-50 years. Could you believe that! Our driver from Delhi kept saying, "I have never seen the roads like this." The water covered the earth between Delhi and Manali. Fields were waist deep in water. Water overflowed all boundaries. Small rivers became torrents of raft water in the fury of the flood, the banks and tons of earth were washed downstream. Our driver sought back road after back road to circumnavigate the main highways that were inundated and impassible. We were fortunate that this man knew the area and had a great sense of direction. However, after 18 hours of next to impossible travel, we were forced to turn back. The mountains in the direction of Manali let loose its rain laden earth and rapidly swelling rivers washed away tons of earth and sections of highway cutting Manali off from the world. Our short rest at a local hotel in Mangi was followed by a 14 hour ride back to Delhi. Flights were unavailable for the next 2 or 3 days so we rebooked our Delhi hotel rooms and hunkered down. On Friday, July 14, we tried again to exit Delhi for Leh via Vistara Airlines.

On the bright side, after we arrived in Leh , we were able to share the Gospel with the youth at the Nepali Hostel. This must be done through personal conversations. One young man was asked to show me the way to the toilet. He did not just guide me. He walked and talked with me in English. His English was quite good. He was an inquisitive and quietly intent young man. On our way back to the main festivities, I asked him, "Are you a Christian?" He had difficulty explaining his position. "Well, I want to be a Christian but my family is Hindu. My father drives a bus. I am interested in Christianity." When we arrived at the main sports ground he did not immediately walk away. He asked me, "How can I live as a Christian?" I mentioned it is a matter of internal change and of a personal relationship with God. Walking with God was much more important than doing good works. If we walked with God, we would do good things. It is about having a relationship with God. God wants us to reach our potential and we can only do that if we are dependent on living for Him. I saw a man standing next to us who was intently listening to our conversation. He had a smile of approval on his face. It was also projecting a pride of some kind. I found out it was the boy's father. Later, his father asked him, "What were you talking about? What was he telling you?" The young man told his dad we were talking about....." He did not reveal the real things we were discussing. I could tell that he was impressed with his son's ability to converse with me in English. That was the impression I received anyway. How would his father feel if this young man converted to Christianity? Would his broader family accept it? Would he face persecution in spite of the fact that his father worked for the school? I could tell that a profession of Christian faith would not be readily accepted. He was a bit scared anyway just thinking about such an announcement.

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