

Moravian School Update (Kathmandu, Nepal) December 2023



3D model of the new Shristi Academy featuring more facilities

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)

Preparing for the New

Seven years of prayers became a reality for Shristi Academy, which was established as an extension of the International Kindergarten in April 2016. It began with 12 children in grade one. An eight-room house was rented with the hope of growing gradually. Our enrollment figure has been increasing each year since 2016 and today we have classes up to grade 8. A second building was rented just before the Covid 19 to accommodate grades 5 to 8 students, and the “Hand of God” carried us through all the unexpected storms.

Moving to a bigger space was of utmost urgency as students began dropping out due to lack of space. It affected our finances and our reputation. We accommodated many adjustments and spent time fasting and praying as well as working with real estate personnel to find a bigger space.

Finally, in June 2023, a real estate agent identified a property that was leased to the National Information Centre. The rental costs were double the current rental costs, so we again prayed, negotiated and finally agreed to pay USD 5,000 per month. This was a huge step of faith but so crucial for the future of the school with over 100 students. It was agreed that by September 12 we would have the new site ready for the school. This meant that within the next three months, we were faced with the humongous task of planning, building, repairing and dismantling before being able to move successfully to the new location.

Steps Planned for the Relocation

We prayed every day for the school and its expansion plans. Once a plan was identified, we prayed again for discernment.

1. Several Zoom meetings were held with parents to get them on board with the plan. They were all positive and excited.
2. The Parent Representatives of each class were mobilized to assist the school with coordinating and carrying out the massive move plan as well as disseminating related information to the other parents.
3. The contract was signed with the new landlord and three months' advance notification was given to the existing landlords to vacate their premises.
4. Another contract was signed for Rs 40,00,000 (USD 30,000) with Koju Construction Company to build the dining/multipurpose hall. Mr. Sandeep Gyawali, parent of a grade 4 student, took the lead on this project as an engineer.
5. A timeline for the move was prepared.
6. A letter was sent out to the parents of Shristi Academy and International Kindergarten Alumni to appeal for funds to support the move.
7. As proposed by the parents, many of them paid their child's school fees a year in advance to help defray the immediate costs of construction, including those of the new dining hall, as well as costs of preparation for the new building.
8. Some parents sent their pickup trucks free of charge for the move, a gesture that has forged a great partnership with the school and opened up opportunities to engage in community service.
9. Negotiations had been made with the existing landlords to buy the additional structures built in their premises for half the price. However, they were not interested. Hence, there was the need to dismantle the metal and wooden structures as well as nets and reuse or upcycle them in the new space. This inadvertently incurred additional labour costs.

The New School Site



View from the 4th level:
ongoing work to clear the area



Dining/multipurpose hall in the making



A worker clearing the field for the futsal area



Machines at work



The dining hall taking shape



Another view from the 4th floor

The Move

The work of moving the desks, chairs, stools, books and bags began on Tuesday, 5th September. Two pickup trucks were sponsored by two parents. One particular truck made eight trips and completed 90% of the work on the same day. Other parents carpooled and helped with the move as well. In addition to the kind acts, the people who made this possible were all our students who carried their own desks, chairs, bags and books among other things. ***Hurray to our Little Ant Army!***

We had four volunteers from the church and our van drivers who helped load and unload the trucks. The teaching and non-teaching staff helped too. They carried what they could and guided the children. Thanks to all who chipped in, both Annex A and Annex B buildings were almost empty by the end of the day!

The incentive for the children's hard work was momos (a type of dumplings). The kitchen and admin ladies actually made 645 momos for Children's Day on 15th September.



Annex B furniture being loaded onto the truck



More Annex B furniture being loaded by adults and kids



Annex A furniture brought down from classrooms by the students

The New Space

The task of looking for a bigger space and moving has been going on for over 7 years and is definitely not a small one. Getting the new space ready is another huge task. On Tuesday, September 12, exactly one week from the day we started moving, school reopened so that normal classes could run. God's special blessings were indeed felt in our human efforts.



Waiting for directions to place the furniture



Digging 120 feet below for groundwater



Work on futsal area stopped ... out of budget



Church committee prayer and dinner



Grade 1 class ...



Grade 4 class ... happy in their new space



Dismantling the old site



Grade 5 class ... enjoying their new space



Almost functional reception



Grade 8 boys setting up the ICT Lab



Most willing helpers



Enjoying chicken momos and fries



CCTV...



in active use

Our Hopes

This is the 12th year that the Moravians are serving the Nepali community through education. In these 12 years, the school has grown from 49 students to 188 students, from 13 staff to 53 full-time and part-time staff. It has also expanded to two school sites, the Kindergarten and Shristi Academy (grade school). Likewise, it has established a good reputation and we are now hopeful that enrolments will grow, as will academic and non-academic programs in the coming years.

We are grateful to the Lord for the many miracles and prayers answered. As we wait for the unfinished work to be completed, we continue to seek financial support from parents, alumni, and prayer partners locally and globally.

We are thankful to:

1. All the prayer partners around the world.
2. Busy Workers (Central Moravian Church) for supporting the addition of computers to the new ICT lab.
3. Central Mission committee for their prayers and financial support.
4. NMO for the CCTV cameras that were brought in 2018 as well as their partnership over the years.
5. Board of World Mission for receiving financial contributions across the Moravian churches in the US and transferring them to the school account in Nepal.
6. British Mission Board for their guidance.

Challenges and opportunities in the next six months:

1. To complete the mini football area – Rs 40,00,000 (USD 34,000)
 - This will become a multipurpose area which will be used for:
 - a) Children's clubs such as football, taekwondo, dance and drama,
 - b) Morning Assembly, Inter-House competitions, Science Fair etc
 - c) Parent meetings, Special gatherings, School functions.
2. To replenish the school fees used in advance as it will impact the rentals, taxes, salaries, and daily school expenses in the months ahead
3. School promotions to increase enrolment
4. Seek loans from banks at the best rates to complete the expansion task.

Please pray for:

1. **IKG and Shristi Academy:** They are now in two different sites: 10-minute walk. Staffing and logistics matters
2. **Teachers:** To remain motivated and sincere as the operation grows
3. **Parents:** To be open to supporting the school through their expertise and promotion
4. **Management and admin team:** For strength, wisdom and discernment to manage two sites and their operations
5. **Landlords:** For the two landlords, that they would cooperate in their dealings
6. **Our neighbors:** To build and maintain good cordial relationships
7. **Grade 8:** First batch sitting for the upcoming district-level examinations in March 2024
8. **Setting up:** Additional computers and printers for the Administrative building, equipment for the Science Lab and Music room
9. **New Student enrolments**
10. **New teachers:** Science, Nepali, English and Grade 7, 9
11. **Volunteer Teachers:** To come and serve in the school by sharing their gifts and talents to impact the children.

We would like to invite you to partner with us if God is leading you towards a ministry that impacts children and educators. If you are interested, please feel free to contact us for more information via

Email: shantivani@gmail.com

Impact Stories



Parent 1

As parents of young children, we must have explored half of the renowned schools in the valley. After much over-thinking and dilemma, we finally decided our first born would continue in Shristi Academy after graduating from IKG.

Over the years we only got happier with this decision we made 5 years ago and our younger child was also enrolled soon after. However, now and then the feeling of Shristi lacking infrastructure would nag me and I would find myself worrying how the school would expand to higher grades.

Now that they have shifted to a new location, I feel so much at ease. I am delighted to see huge buildings, bigger classrooms and a spacious dining area. Also it is delightful that the children have a playground, library and futsal area within the premises. I am also relieved that the school has not moved too far from its previous location, and that it is accessible from multiple routes with better parking options.

It brings me joy to know that the entire school now has a single assembly and is finally united together as one big family.

– Dr Smriti Mathema, Mother of Mishika (Grade 5) and Jehan (Grade3)



Parent 2

The shifting of Shristi Academy was a very emotional journey for me. As the parent of a student from the senior most class (who has been with them since Toddler class) that has been progressing each year, I could not help but tear up the first time I visited the new school building.

We have witnessed Shristi to be far superior in terms of quality of education. They give our children soft skills better than many bigger schools; right from the management to the support staff, all have a genuine spirit of service that is difficult to find. There is the Shristi Spirit that is also diligently being passed down to our children.

A natural concern for the parents had been the school space and class strength and this topic was raised by parents in most of the PTM. Shristi had shared their vision and had been updating us about the progress and steps being taken for the fulfillment of this vision. We had been waiting for the right place with much prayer.

Now that there is plenty of space, our hope is that we will see many new students even in the senior sections and we also look forward to Shristi reaching its full potential.

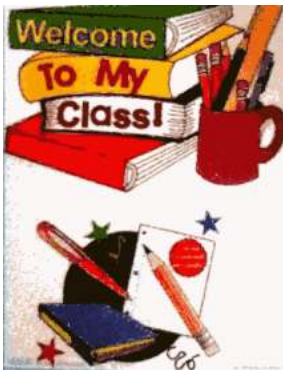
– *Jarina Tamang, Mother of Mayel (Grade 8)*



Students



There is so much space available for us to play, and run. Now we will have a basketball court and a nice futsal field. We no longer have to go to another place to play football.



Teachers

This space is just about right. We have sufficient toilets and we have a separate room for teachers where we can work quietly. Our classrooms are spacious and wide enough for all of us.



Kitchen staff

The kitchen is so much easier to work in now. It feels safe as all the propane gas is outside the kitchen. We have two different sinks to wash veggies, rice and a separate place to wash all the big utensils. It is bright and airy as well.

Shristi Academy thanks one and all for their love and support!